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ABSTRACT

This book argues that the modern university has forgotten its spiritual foundations and that it needs to reappropriate these foundations before it can creatively and responsibly reform itself. The book first offers a critical examination of the ethos of the modern academy, especially its understanding of knowledge, teaching, and learning, and then goes on to formulate a description of the "new cultural context" within which the world of higher learning is presently situated. Finally, a view of knowledge and inquiry that is linked essentially to character, friendship, and community is developed. Additionally, it is demonstrated that the practice of certain spiritual virtues is and always has been essential to the process of genuine learning--even within the secular academy. The book examines the relationship between religion and higher learning in a way that is at once historical and philosophical, critical and constructive. It calls for a reunion of the intellectual, the moral, and the spiritual virtues within the world of higher education in America. Contains an index. (GLR)

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